

MAJOR POWELL, THE CHIEF.

BY THE EDITOR.

MAJOR John Wesley Powell received *honoris causa* the doctor's degree of the University of Heidelberg, which is a rare distinction ranging high above the title of doctor that is conferred to applicants on the ground of a thesis and a due examination called the *rigororum*. The doctor's degree *honoris causa* is given only to men of extraordinary merit when they have acquired sufficient fame no longer to be in need of titles. The philosophical faculty of Heidelberg so correctly and pointedly stated the reason for conferring the honorary degree of doctor upon Major Powell, that we here reproduce an English translation of that portion of his diploma. It reads as follows :

" We, the Senior Dean and other professors of the Faculty of Philosophy in the Karl Rupert University, duly certify by this diploma bearing our seal that we have conferred the rights and privileges of a doctor of philosophy, *honoris causa*, upon that most learned and distinguished man, John W. Powell, of Illinois, heretofore chief of the public institution of ethnography, now of geology, in the United States of America, who, laboriously and wisely studying and measuring the vast and spacious regions of his own country with others, has scientifically observed and expounded the structure, form, and origin of the earth; and who has so associated with himself and brought together into one institution a great number of the most distinguished geologists of his country that they have materially advanced or solved, not less wonderfully than speedily, very difficult and profound questions in mineralogy, petrography, geology, and paleontology; they have studied under his auspices as chief, thereby causing these things not only to be most skilfully brought together in various works, but also to be communicated with the greatest liberality to all students of these subjects in Europe."

Major Powell was not only a scientist but also a chief; he was an organiser, and it is his spirit even to-day after he has passed away that pervades the institutions which with him and partly through him were called into existence. Yet while he was a born leader, he was never domineering but always amiable and considerate. He appeared to the younger generation that grew up under the influence of his powerful personality, not as their teacher or master, but their senior friend, and they in their turn learned to look up to him with love and confidence as to a father or elder brother.